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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by a guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Charles E. Poole, First Baptist Church, in the city of Washington, DC.

We are pleased to have the reverend with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Charles E. Poole, pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and Almighty God, we give thanks for these, Your children, who gather in this place, day after day, to invest their best energies in shaping the life of the Nation.

We pray, O God, that You will bless the men and women who serve in this Senate. Give them wisdom and insight from beyond themselves. Give them the abiding patience that lasts longer than mere tolerance, the embracing perspective that sees larger than simple partisanship, and the enduring peace that goes deeper than outward circumstance. Hold each of them, and their families, in Your strong hands. Bless them, O God, with quiet spaces and restful moments in the midst of their very public lives in this very noisy world.

We pray in the quiet assurance that You are with us, and in the abiding hope that we will be with You. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator COCHRAN from Mississippi, is recognized.

WELCOME, DR. CHARLES E. POOLE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it gives me a special pleasure this morn-

ing to welcome our guest Chaplain who has delivered the opening prayer, Dr. Charles E. Poole.

He is currently serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of the city of Washington, DC, but he and his family will be moving soon to Mississippi where he has accepted the call to serve as pastor of my church, Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, MS. We are delighted to have this very special person come to our State and serve in this way. We appreciate very much his being our guest Chaplain this morning and delivering such a fine prayer.

Dr. Poole earned his undergraduate degree from Mercer University in Macon, GA, and graduate degrees in divinity from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC.

Before he became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Washington, he served for several years as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Macon, GA. He was also on the board of trustees of Mercer University in Macon for 5 years. He is an outstanding clergyman who is well respected here in the Washington area. His sermons and other writings have been published and very favorably received.

He and his wife Marcia have two children, Joshua and Maria. We are looking forward to getting to know all of them better.

We thank him, on behalf of all Senators, for his contribution to today's session.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at the request of the majority leader, I am pleased to make the following announcement relating to the schedule of the Senate. For the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 949, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. By previous consent, there will be 20 minutes for debate equally divided between

Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator BUMPERS, with a vote occurring in relation to the Bumpers amendment at approximately 9:50 a.m. Following the vote on the Bumpers amendment, there will be 20 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form with a vote on or in relation to the Dorgan amendment No. 517 regarding capital gains. Following that vote, there will be 10 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form on the Dorgan motion to refer. The Senate then will proceed to a vote in relation to the DORGAN motion.

All other amendments offered last night and amendments offered during today's session will be subject to roll-call votes throughout the day as we make progress on the Taxpayer Relief Act. Therefore, Senators can anticipate numerous rollcall votes on this bill during today's session of the Senate.

REVENUE RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Under the previous order, the clerk will report S. 949.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 949) to provide revenue reconciliation pursuant to section 104(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

A motion to waive the Congressional Budget Act with respect to consideration of Section 602 of the bill.

Dorgan motion to refer the bill to the Committee on the Budget, with instructions.

Dorgan Amendment No. 515, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to abate the accrual of interest on income tax underpayments by taxpayers located in Presidentially declared disaster areas if the Secretary extends the time for filing returns and payment of tax (and waives any penalties relating to the failure to so file or so pay) for such taxpayers.

Dorgan Amendment No. 516, to provide tax relief for taxpayers located in Presidentially declared disaster areas.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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